

Serial No. 10/033,575

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 23, 26 and 40 have been amended. Claims 23-42 are pending. Examination of the pending claims is requested.

Support for the amendments to claims 23 and 26 can be found, for example, at page 18, lines 11-19 (paragraph [0088]) and Figures 1 and 2.

Claim 40 has been amended to correct a spelling error.

Attached is a marked-up version of the amendments made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions or in order to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Serial No. 10/033,575**PATENT***VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claims 23, 26 and 40 have been amended as follows:

23. (Amended) An operative combination for use in measuring bioanalyte in a sample; the combination comprising:

- (a) a sensor strip; the sensor strip comprising:
 - (i) a substrate having a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a first side edge extending between the first end and second end, and a second side edge, opposite the first side edge and extending between the first end and second end;
 - (A) the substrate first end sized for insertion into an electrical connector;
 - (ii) a sample chamber positioned between the first and second ends;
 - (iii) at least three electrodes on the substrate and in operative contact with the sample chamber, each of the electrodes including a separate electrode trace extending from the sample chamber [to the first end] and along a length of the substrate; and
 - (iv) an insertion monitor stripe on the substrate;
- (b) an electrical connector in electrical communication with a meter, the electrical connector having a sensor strip receiving area sized for operative receipt of the first end of the substrate; the electrical connector further comprising:
 - (i) a first contact structure comprising at least three contact leads, one each of which is positioned to engage one each of three of the at least three electrode traces of the sensor strip when the substrate is operatively positioned with the first end positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector;

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- (ii) a second contact structure comprising at least a first insertion lead and a second insertion lead, each of the first and second insertion leads being positioned to operatively engage the insertion monitor stripe when the first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area;
 - (A) the first insertion lead being positioned with a portion thereof extending across the first side edge of the sensor strip substrate to engage the insertion monitor stripe when the first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector; and,
 - (B) the second insertion lead being positioned with a portion thereof extending across the second side edge of the sensor strip substrate to engage the insertion monitor stripe when the first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector;
 - (c) the sensor strip being removably mounted to the electrical connector with the substrate first end received in the sensor strip receiving area.
26. (Amended) A kit for use in measuring bioanalyte in a sample; the kit comprising:
- (a) a sensor strip; the sensor strip comprising:
 - (i) a substrate having a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a first side edge extending between the first end and second end, and a second side edge, opposite the first side edge and extending between the first end and second end;
 - (A) the substrate first end sized for insertion into an electrical connector;
 - (ii) a sample chamber positioned between the first and second ends;

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- (iii) at least three electrodes on the substrate and in operative contact with the sample chamber, each of the electrodes including a separate electrode trace extending from the sample chamber [to the first end] of the substrate; and
- (iv) an insertion monitor stripe on the substrate;
- (b) an electrical connector having a sensor strip receiving area sized for operative receipt therein of the first end of the sensor strip substrate; the electrical connector further comprising:
 - (i) a first contact structure comprising at least three contact leads, one each of which is positioned to engage one each of three of the at least three electrode traces of the sensor strip when the substrate is operatively positioned with the first end positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector;
 - (ii) second contact structure comprising at least a first insertion lead and a second insertion lead, each of the first and second insertion leads being positioned to operatively engage the insertion monitor stripe when the sensor strip first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area;
 - (A) the first insertion lead being positioned with a portion thereof extending across the first side edge of the sensor strip substrate to engage the insertion monitor stripe when the first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector; and,
 - (B) the second insertion lead being positioned with a portion thereof extending across the second side edge of the sensor strip substrate to engage the insertion monitor stripe when the first end is operatively positioned in the sensor strip receiving area of the electrical connector.

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40 (Amended) A method of measuring [bioanalyte] bioanalyte in a sample; said method including a step of:

- (a) inserting a first end of a sensor strip into a sensor strip receiving area of a electrical connector; the step of inserting including:
 - (i) contacting one each of at least three contact leads in the electrical connector with separate ones of at least three electrode traces on the sensor strip; and
 - (ii) contacting first and second insertion leads of the electrical connector with an insertion monitor stripe on the sensor strip:
 - (A) the step of inserting including positioning the sensor strip so that the first insertion lead extends across a first side edge of the sensor strip to engage the insertion monitor stripe; and
 - (B) the step of inserting including positioning the sensor strip so that the second insertion lead extends across a second side edge of the sensor strip to engage the insertion monitor stripe, the second side edge being an edge opposite the first side edge.